Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 663621	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/000455	International filing date (*day/month/year*) 21 January 2003 (21.01.2003)	Priority date (*day/month/year*) 21 January 2002 (21.01.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61M 37/00		
Applicant	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 August 2003 (18.08.2003)	Date of completion of this report 18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

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International application No.
PCT/JP2003/000455

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* *Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).*

** *Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.*

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 2-6, 8-17

because:

☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 14-17 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination *(specify)*:

See supplemental sheet

☐ the description, claims or drawings *(indicate particular elements below)* or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed *(specify)*:

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 2-6, 8-17 .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: III. 1.

The inventions set forth in claims 14 to 17 correspond to methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy, therefore this International Preliminary Examining Authority is not required to carry out international preliminary examination on this subject matter under the provisions of PCT Article 34(4)(a)(i) and PCT Rule 67.1(iv).

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IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

☐ restricted the claims.

☐ paid additional fees.

☐ paid additional fees under protest.

☒ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

☐ complied with.

☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

See supplemental sheet

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

☐ all parts.

☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1, 7 .

Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: IV. 3.

The search has revealed that the ultrasonic percutaneous permeation device set forth in claim 1 is disclosed in the following documents.

Accordingly, the invention set forth in claim 1 is not novel and has no special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, since it makes no contribution over the prior art.

Therefore claims 1 and 7 have no common features.

There is no common feature which may be described as a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, therefore there is no technical relation between the corresponding inventions within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.

It is therefore obvious that claims 1 and 7 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1, 7	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1, 7	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1, 7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1 and 7

Document 1: JP 7-24074 A (Katsuro Tachibana), 27 January 1995

Claim 1 sets forth "an ultrasonic generator for medical treatment... for supplying ultrasonic signals to an ultrasonic probe for medical treatment".

Document 2: JP 64-500247 A (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), 2 February 1989

Claim 1 sets forth "a method for promoting and controlling the percutaneous introduction of molecules, wherein... at an ultrasonic frequency between 20kHz and 10MHz...".

Document 3: JP 8-502424 A (Endodermic Medical Technologies Co.), 19 March 1996, entire text

Claim 1 sets forth "an ultrasonic percutaneous drug supply system, which is an ultrasonic percutaneous drug supply system..." and claim 3 indicates that "the frequency of the aforementioned ultrasonic stimulating pulse falls within the range of 5kHz to 1MHz...".

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 7 are disclosed in documents 1, 2 or 3.